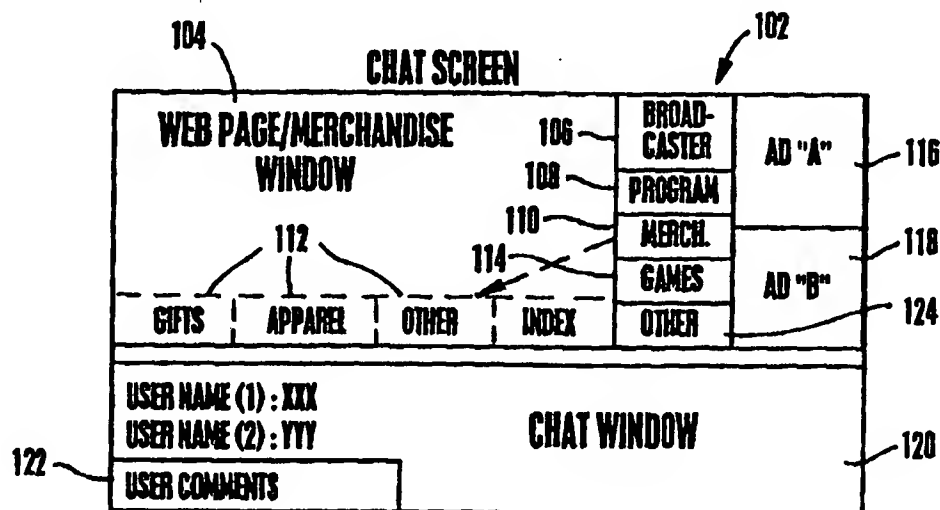




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06F 15/00, 15/16, 15/17	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/21664 (43) International Publication Date: 22 May 1998 (22.05.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/20772 (22) International Filing Date: 14 November 1997 (14.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/749,091 14 November 1996 (14.11.96) US (71) Applicant: INTERACTIVE BROADCASTER SERVICES CORPORATION [US/US]; Suite 300B, 7946 Ivanhoe Avenue, La Jolla, CA 92037 (US). (72) Inventor: MONCREIFF, Craig, T.; 3916 Riviera Drive #601, San Diego, CA 92109 (US). (74) Agent: ROGITZ, John, L.; Rogitz & Associates, Suite 3120, 750 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101 (US).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: **COMPUTER NETWORK CHAT ROOM BASED ON CHANNEL BROADCAST IN REAL TIME**

(57) Abstract

A computer network chat room system (10) includes plural chat rooms, with the conversation in each chat room being related to the program being broadcast real-time over a respective TV or radio channel in a user-defined time zone. Computer users access the chat rooms via the Internet (14) by inputting their desired television or radio channel, along with a request to enter a chat room. A chat window (120) is presented to the users of the system, along with a Web page window (104) relating to the program currently being broadcast over the respective channel, and two advertising windows (116, 118) that also relate to the current program that is the discussion topic of the respective chat room. Additionally, a merchandising window (112) can be presented for effecting transactions of merchandise that relates to the current program. A time zone-dependent channel guide (130) is also advantageously provided to the computer users.